PHOTO BY TOM MALABA

Eight injured as Karimojong, Turkana fight over water, pasture

BY STEVEN ARIONG
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

MOROTO. Eight Turkana and Karimojong pastoralists are admitted to Matany hospital in critical condition after they sustained injuries during a fight over water and grazing land in Moroto District.

The fight, which involved the Turkana of Kenya, Dodoth of Kaabong, Jie of Kotido and Matheniko of Moroto, took place at Kobebe dam.

The pastoralist fought using sticks for about two hours before UPDF soldiers arrived and separated them.

Capt Abert Arinaitwe, the UPDF 3rd Division spokesperson, confirmed the incident. "We recovered one gun during the incident and we are looking for other pastoralists who entered Uganda with guns," Capt Arinaitwe said.

Karamoja Sub-region is currently host to about 70,000 Turkana pastoralists who entered the country with more than 100,000 livestock following persistent drought in northwest Kenya recently. The pastoralists are grazing in Kobebe in Moroto; Loyoro, Kamion and Kalapata in Kaabong District.

However, their presence has caused friction with the residents, with the latter accusing them of encroaching on their grazing areas.

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